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UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.46/2  
21 August 2023

Original: ENGLISH

Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to  
the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas  
and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Oranjestad, Aruba,  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

### PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region held in Kingston, 15 to 18 January 1990, adopted the SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 23 of the SPAW Protocol provides for the convening and functioning of the Meetings of the Parties and calls for these ordinary meetings to be held in conjunction with the Ordinary Meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Convention. In light of the above, this Meeting is convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cartagena Convention Secretariat by means of an in person meeting, on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 (tentative) preceding the Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean, Meeting 3-6 October, 2023.
2. The main objectives of this Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP12) to the SPAW Protocol are to:
  - **Review** and **adopt** the Recommendations of the Tenth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC10) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Virtual Meeting;
  - **Review** and **approve** the 2023-2024 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for subsequent approval by the Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;
  - **Review** and **approve** the reports on protected areas presented by Parties for listing under the SPAW Protocol;
  - **Review** and **adopt** the SPAW STAC10 recommendations on the species proposed for listing under the SPAW Protocol;

*For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.*

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3. The eighteen Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol are invited to nominate their respective representatives to participate in the Meeting. Representatives of governments that are non-Contracting Parties and of international, regional, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, have also been invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. The Provisional List of Participants will be presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.46/INF.1.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

4. The Meeting will be opened by the Secretariat on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023, at 8:45 am in person in Oranjestad, Aruba and using a virtual platform.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

##### **2.1 Rules of Procedure**

5. The Rules of Procedure for the meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) (UNEP, 2012) will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, for the conduct of the Meeting.

##### **2.2 Election of Officers**

6. The Meeting will be invited to elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties to SPAW; the President, a first Vice-President, a second Vice-President and the Rapporteur for the conduct of the Meeting.

##### **2.3 Organisation of Work**

7. English, French and Spanish will be the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages will be provided for the Meeting, and the Working Documents will be available in all the working languages. The Provisional List of Documents of the Meeting is presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.47/INF.1.
8. The Secretariat proposes to convene the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of working groups if necessary, which may be established by the President. No simultaneous interpretation will be available for the working groups. Participants will be reminded that, given the length of the Meeting, breaking into working groups might not be feasible. Participants are therefore expected to come prepared, having reviewed all working documents as appropriate, in order to provide concrete inputs at the time of discussion.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

9. The Meeting will be invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda, prepared by the Secretariat based on inputs received from the Contracting Parties during preparations for the Meeting, on relevant recommendations and decisions from previous STAC and COP Meetings of the SPAW Protocol, as well as on emerging issues of relevance to the biodiversity of the Wider Caribbean. The Provisional Agenda proposed by the Secretariat is presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.47/1.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR 2021-2022, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW-RAC) IN GUADELOUPE**

10. The Secretariat will present the “Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2021-2022” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.5), including a brief presentation by SPAW-RAC of the “Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe with regard to RAC operations and budget for the period 2021-2022” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.6).

11. During the presentation the Secretariat will also briefly refer to the following documents:

- SPAW-RAC strategic plan for the period 2023-2028 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.7);
- Exploring the feasibility of implementing recommendations identified in CaMPAM effectiveness assessments (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.8)
- Exploring the feasibility of implementing recommendations identified in the evaluation of the connectivity among MPAs of the Wider Caribbean (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.9)
- Rationale and Information Paper on CaMPAM and Development of an Ecological Network of SPAW-listed Protected Areas (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.10)
- Potential costs, benefits, and operational framework of a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.32)
- Presentation of CAMAC project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.36)
- Review of Operations, Functioning, and Financing of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks of the Cartagena Convention (UNEP CEP, 2022)
- RAC/RAN Review Workplan (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.39)

12. The Meeting will be invited to provide any comments on the activities implemented during 2021-2022 and to make any recommendations. Parties will also be requested to complement the information provided by the Secretariat and inform the Meeting on their activities in support of SPAW objectives within their countries, including SPAW workplan activities in which they have participated and their impact.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: REVIEW OF THE DRAFT WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE 2023-2024 BIENNIUM**

13. The Secretariat will present the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2023-2024 Biennium” (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/3), developed following Decisions of previous COP Meetings, to address relevant and emerging global and regional biodiversity issues and initiatives, and to continue the development of strategic alliances.
14. The Meeting will be invited to approve the draft SPAW Workplan and Budget as revised by SPAW STAC10 and provide specific comments and recommendations as needed. Subsequently, the Workplan and Budget will be presented to the Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, as part of the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2023-2024 Biennium, for its final adoption.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: REVIEW OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC9) TO THE SPAW PROTOCOL**

15. The Secretariat will present the Recommendations of the SPAW STAC10 for review and approval (virtual meetings 30 January – 1 February 2023) (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/4 ). The Secretariat will call to the attention of the Meeting, the relevant documents in support of the STAC10 Recommendations:
- Review of the Aruba’s proposal for listing of “Parke Marino Aruba” under the SPAW Protocol UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.13 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.13 regarding **STAC10 Recommendation V(6) and Recommendation IV(7).**

- The “SPAW Regional Activity Centre Strategic Plan 2023-2028” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.7) regarding **STAC10 Recommendation I (3)**;
- Update of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.31)) regarding STAC10 Recommendation I (6) and Recommendation IX(11);
- SPAW Consortium Concept Brief (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/CRP.1) regarding STAC10 Recommendation II (1);
- Information Paper on Protecting Blue Corridors (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/CRP.1) regarding STAC10 Recommendation II (2).
- The Caribbean Megafauna and Anthropogenic Activities (CAMAC) project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.36) STAC10 Recommendation III (1 and 2).
- Report of the Exemptions Working Group (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.33) regarding STAC10 Recommendation V (1 and 2).
- Recommendations for preventing Sawfish extinction (Pristidae) in the Wider Caribbean Region in UNEP (DEPI) CAR WG.43/INF.25 regarding STAC10 Recommendation IX (2),
- Recommendations for conserving Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) in the Wider Caribbean Region in UNEP (DEPI) CAR WG.43/INF.26 regarding STAC10 Recommendation IX (4),
- Recommendations for the protection and recovery of sea turtles in UNEP (DEPI) CAR WG.43/INF.24 regarding STAC10 Recommendation IX (4),
- Proposal by the Republic of France and the Kingdom of Netherlands for the uplisting of Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) from annex III to annex II of the SPAW protocol, proposal by the Republic of France and the Kingdom of Netherlands for the inclusion of all parrot fishes (Perciformes: Scaridae) and Proposal by the Kingdom of Netherlands for the inclusion of the Caribbean reef shark (*Carcharhinus perezi*) in Appendix III of the SPAW Protocol regarding STAC10 Recommendation IX (8),
- Potential costs, benefits and operational framework for the establishment of a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.32) regarding STAC10 Recommendation IX (10)

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS**

16. Participants will be invited to raise any other issue not covered by the preceding Agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

17. The Rapporteur of the Meeting will present the draft Decisions of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.47/3). The Meeting will be invited to adopt decisions, with amendments and corrections to be introduced, as appropriate. The decisions will be made available to the Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region Virtual Meeting for adoption.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

18. The Meeting is expected to be closed on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 at 5:00 p.m. by the President of the Meeting and the Secretariat.